

1984-01

# BUSM News & Notes: January 1984

## no. 73

---

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/21823>

*Boston University*

# News & Notes

Boston University School of Medicine



January 1984  
Issue 73

## EGDAHL LAUNCHES PEW HEALTH POLICY FELLOWS PROGRAM

Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., met last month with senior managers from 28 of the nation's largest corporations to launch the inaugural conference of the Pew Health Policy Fellows program, a national program to develop new leadership in health policy.

The Fellows program is one component of a larger project funded by the Pew Memorial Trust of Philadelphia, Pa., to provide advanced training in health policy to individuals from both the corporate and public sectors. The project, which also includes the Pew Scholar program and the Pew Associates program, is sponsored jointly by the University's Center for Industry and Health Care, which is directed by Egdahl, and Brandeis University's Heller Graduate School.

Egdahl said that 28 Pew Fellows were selected on the basis of the commitment they and their sponsoring companies have exhibited in addressing significant national and local health problems. "Together, the companies represented by the Pew Fellows provide insurance coverage and health services for over three million employees and their dependents. This is a powerful factor in the health-care equation," said Egdahl, who also is founder and director of the University's Health Policy Institute, of which the Center for Industry and Health Care is a part.

The Pew Fellows convene in Boston to attend four working conferences over a two-year period at which they will work to define strategies to manage the use of health-care facilities, services, and other resources.

Egdahl also addressed the issue of health-care costs and health-care delivery efficiency in an article in a recent issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, and in an interview in a recent issue of Business and Health.

## STUDY: CORONARY DISEASE RISK FACTORS ALSO PREDICT STROKE

School of Medicine researchers reported in the Dec. 2 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association that five major risk factors of coronary heart disease (CHD) are as predictive of stroke as they are of CHD. The dominant risk factors are hypertension, clinical manifestations of CHD, cardiac failure, atrial fibrillation, and ECG and roentgenographic evidence of a compromised coronary circulation, according to the report.

"When all five major CHD risk factors are considered jointly, they are actually as predictive of brain infarction," reported researchers William B. Kannel, M.D., a professor of medicine, and Philip A. Wolf, M.D., a professor of neurology and an associate research professor of medicine, and Joel Verter, Ph.D., of the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, Washington, D.C.

The study also found that the presence of CHD in patients almost tripled the risk of a stroke, and cardiac failure was associated with more than a fivefold increased risk. The report was based on a 24-year follow-up of 5,184 men and women, aged 30 to 62 years. All the subjects were participants in the Boston University/Framingham Heart Study.

"Coronary disease is only one feature of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, and strokes are a prominent hazard for the patient with established CHD. Secondary prevention in the coronary patient must be directed not only against recurrent cardiac catastrophes but against a stroke as well," according to the report.

MULTIPLE EXPOSURES TO GONORRHEA INCREASE INFECTION CHANCES      Neisseria gonorrhoeae infection is more common among women who have more than one sexual contact with a man with Neisseria gonorrhoeae than among those only exposed once, researchers reported in the Dec. 16 Journal of the American Medical Association.

The study, entitled "Risk of Acquiring Gonorrhea and Prevalence of Abnormal Adnexal Findings Among Women Recently Exposed to Gonorrhea," found that of 26 women who had recently been exposed to N. gonorrhoeae, 13 of the 14 women who had had more than one exposure suffered infection while only six of 12 women with only one exposure experienced an infection.

The researchers also found that gonococcal infection was significantly associated with the presence of upper genital tract inflammation symptoms. Nine of the 19 infected women in the study had such symptoms while none of the uninfected women did.

The researchers acknowledge that the study sample was small, but point out that the study does indicate that "a woman's chance of acquiring infection after exposure to infection is approximately 50 percent after a single exposure....These findings reinforce the importance of the only preventive technique currently available, prompt aggressive contact tracing and treatment of exposed persons."

Study investigators were Peter A. Rice, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, Richard Platt, M.D., of Harvard Medical School, and and William M. McCormack, M.D., of Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.

BUSM AND ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL BEGIN PEDIATRICS AFFILIATION      The School of Medicine has entered into an affiliation in pediatrics with St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester, according to Joel J. Alpert, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics. The affiliation agreement was signed Jan. 6 and officials will be developing ways in which BUSM students and postgraduates can work to further their education at the St. Vincent Hospital with the pediatrics staff, said Alpert.



St. Vincent Hospital is a 575-bed institution, the second largest free-standing hospital in Massachusetts. The hospital has a strong pediatrics program, which is directed by Sean Palfre, M.D.

SORENSEN NAMED TO COMMITTEES, RECEIVES \$242,000 IN GRANTS James R. Sorenson, Ph.D., an associate professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine and chief of the School's Social and Behavioral Science Section, recently was appointed to the Genetic Committee, Maternal and Child Health Section, of the American Public Health Association. The 12-member committee studies the issues and problems surrounding applied human genetics in public health.

Sorenson also was named to the 15-member Behavioral Sciences Advisory Council of the Association of Schools of Public Health. The council currently is outlining aspects of behavioral science research that are relevant to the training of Masters degree-level public health professionals.

Sorenson also recently received two grants totaling \$242,000. A \$190,000 grant was awarded to Sorenson, Deborah Frank, M.D., an assistant professor of pediatrics, and Stephen Wirtz, M.S., a research associate, in December to complete "A Controlled Trial to Prolong the Duration of Breastfeeding in an Inner City Population." The grant was awarded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. A \$52,000 grant was awarded to Sorenson and Dorothy C. Wertz, Ph.D., an adjunct associate professor in the School's Social and Behavioral Science section, by the Centers for Disease Control and the Association of Schools of Public Health to assess the effectiveness of CDC-applied epidemiology courses.

ALPERT LECTURES IN AUSTRALIA, TAIWAN, AND ENGLAND Joel J. Alpert, M.D., professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, recently returned from a brief sabbatical in Perth, Australia, where he served as the Raine Foundation Visiting Scholar in Child Health at the University of Western Australia and Visiting Pediatrician at the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children.

While in Australia, Alpert lectured in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. He also served as a tutor and taught a course on "Children at Risk" at the University of Western Australia St. Cloud.

In addition to his visit to Australia, Alpert addressed the annual meeting of the Republic of China Pediatric Society in Taiwan and the Department of Pediatrics at Cambridge University, Cambridge, England.

POLYCYSTIC-OVARY SYNDROME DESCRIBED IN JAMA EDITORIAL Polycystic-ovary syndrome is "probably the most common endocrinologic disorder among women during their reproductive years," according to an editorial written by Judith L. Vaitukaitis, M.D., a professor of medicine and physiology and head of the Section of Endocrinology and Metabolism at BUSM. The editorial appeared in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The two-page editorial, entitled "Polycystic-Ovary Syndrome--What is it?"

described the aspects and history of the syndrome. "The term 'polycystic-ovary syndrome' is best reserved for describing a clinical but not a specific pathophysiologic syndrome," wrote Vaitukaitis, "since the cause of the disorder encompasses several different abnormalities with similar clinical presentations."

SPANISH CLASSES OFFERED  
FOR BUMC PERSONNEL

The School of Medicine is offering Conversational Spanish classes for medical personnel. The classes, which are open to all Medical Center employees, aim to help medical personnel communicate with Spanish-speaking patients.

Taught by Sonia M. Kalikow, the classes are sponsored by the Department of Socio-Medical Sciences and Community Medicine and began Jan. 9. Beginning Spanish is offered Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Intermediate to Advanced Spanish classes are held Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., and Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes meet in L-303. There is a \$10 fee.

For more information, attend one of the classes, or call the Department of Socio-Medical Sciences and Community Medicine at x6009.

DOCTORS RAISE \$22,000  
IN ANNUAL DOCTORS RUN

Thirteen BUMC doctors joined about 185 physicians from the New England area for the Sixth Annual Colonnade Doctors Run, recently held to raise money for the American Heart Association.

The event, sponsored by the Colonnade Hotel in Boston and open only to physicians, raised a record-breaking \$22,000 in pledges through the sponsorship of patients, family members and friends. This brings the total to more than \$100,000 raised for the AHA since the inception of the Run.

Charles P. Tifft, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, who is chairman of funding for the Greater Boston Division of the AHA, organized and ran in the event, raising more than \$2,200 in pledges. Tifft won dinner for two at Zachary's at The Colonnade.

BUSM FACULTY TO BE FEATURED  
AT UPCOMING CME COURSES

Several BUSM faculty members will take part in three Department of Continuing Medical Education courses in February.

The Department of Radiology will sponsor "Trauma and Emergency Radiology for Emergency Physicians, General Practitioners and Family Physicians" Feb. 18 to 20 at the Orlando Hyatt Hotel, Kissimmee, Fla. Designed for medical and paramedical personnel who work in an acute setting, the course will be directed by Judith Kossoff, M.D., an associate professor of radiology, and Allan Naimark, M.D., an associate professor of radiology.

"Gynecology for the Non-Gynecologist," sponsored by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, will be held Feb. 20 to 23 at the Orlando Hyatt Hotel. The course will highlight the complex problems of the female patient. Leonard Cibley, M.D., an associate clinical professor of Obstetrics and



Gynecology and assistant director of the Department of Continuing Medical Education, will be course director.

Pediatricians and family practitioners can explore problems in patient management at a course entitled "Current Clinical Pediatrics." It is being sponsored by the Department of Pediatrics at the Village at Smugglers' Notch in Jeffersonville, Vt., Feb. 27 to March 2. Stephen I. Pelton, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics, will direct the course and 11 BUSM faculty members will speak.

PHARMACOLOGY SEMINARS  
SET FOR FEBRUARY

The Department of Pharmacology is scheduled to present two February seminars. Peter Wislocki, Ph.D., of the Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research, will talk on "Mutagenicity and Carcinogenicity of Metabolites of 7, 12-Dimethyl Benz(a)anthracene" on Feb. 3 at 1 p.m. Judith Marquis, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmacology, will discuss "Pharmacologic Calculations with the Apple II Computer: Hands On!" on Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. Both seminars will be held in L-603 and will last an hour.

REGIONAL SREPCIM MEETING  
HELD HERE IN DECEMBER

More than 100 people attended the Fourth Annual Regional Society for Research and Education of Primary Care Internal Medicine (SREPCIM) Meeting held at the Medical Center on Dec. 7. The subject of the day-long meeting, hosted by the General Internal Medicine Section of UH, was "Primary Care Internal Medicine: Agenda Through the 1980s."

School of Medicine faculty members on the planning committee for the meeting were: Donald R. Korst, M.D., a professor of medicine; Mark A. Moskowitz, M.D., and Thomas A. Parrino, M.D., assistant professors of medicine; and Gene H. Stollerman, M.D., a professor of medicine. Stollerman gave the luncheon address on "The Evolution of General Internal Medicine."

BRIEFLY NOTED

Barry M. Manual, M.D., associate dean for continuing medical education and external programs and an associate clinical professor of surgery, was installed as president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Surgeons at its annual meeting at the Marriott Hotel in Newton on Dec. 3. At the meeting, Manuel also made a presentation on the effects of hospital cost containment on the practicing surgeons....At the 49th Annual Scientific Assembly of the American College of Chest Physicians, Babette-Ann Stanton, Ph.D., an assistant research professor of medicine and psychiatry and acting chairman of the Department of Behavioral Epidemiology, made a presentation entitled "Hospital Readmissions: An Index of Early Morbidity After Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery." The paper's co-authors included Michael D. Klein, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, and Judith A. Savageau, M.P.H., and Roberta Aucoin, R.N., of the Department of Behavioral Epidemiology....George I. Lythcott '43-A, a member of the BUSM Board of Visitors, wrote the forward to "Princes and Peasants," a book written by Donald R. Hopkins and recently published by University Chicago Press. A reception for Hopkins introducing the book, which tells the story of the ravages of smallpox and how they have altered the course of history, was held recently at the Boston University Bookstore in Kenmore Square....Robert P. Younes, M.D., an assistant clinical

professor of pediatrics, and David L. Freedman, M.D., an instructor in medicine, co-wrote "Chicken Pox with Associated Arthritis," which was published in a recent issue of Clinical Pediatrics. In addition, Younes also co-authored "Neuroimmaturity of Learning-Disabled Children: A Controlled Study" which appeared in a recent issue of Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology....Herbert Drouin, Ph.D., a visiting professor of physiology, presented a lecture entitled "Polyamines, Snail Neurons and Ionic Membrane Currents: Quantitative Microelectrode Ionophoresis of Spermine" at a symposium held in Adelaide, South Australia. At the symposium, Drouin also submitted a paper entitled "Spermine Reduces Ionic Currents of Aplysia Neurons," which will be published in the proceedings of that meeting....Ronald W. Mortara, M.D., an assistant professor of surgery, spoke on "Issues in the Acute Management of the Traumatic Brain-Injured" to more than 250 medical and health-care professionals at the recent Braintree Hospital Fourth Annual Traumatic Head Injury Conference, held in Braintree, Mass....Jose A. Lopez, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine, spoke on "Advances in Chemotherapy in the 1980s" at a conference on "Advances in Cancer Therapy and Their Emotional Impact," recently held at St. Anne's Hospital, Fall River, Mass.

NEWS & NOTES is a regular monthly publication of the Office of Informational Services. If you have news of interest to the School of Medicine community, call editor Paul Vaskas, x5606 (247-5606), or write to him at the Office of Informational Services, DOB-600 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

## News & Notes

Boston University  
School of Medicine  
Office of Informational Services  
720 Harrison Ave., Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02118

---

Nonprofit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
Boston, Mass.  
PERMIT NO. 56031

---

BEATTIE, EMILY L  
MED LIBRARY  
80 E.CONCORD ST L12 MED45